IN THE CLAIMS

Please substitute claims 1-12 with the following:

1. (Currently Amended) A cushioning material for supporting an inner first housing and an outer second housing in spaced apart relation, comprising:

a main body having a space within which at least a portion of only one of a plurality of ~~corner~~ corners of said first housing is received and having a portion which comes into contact with an outer surface of said first housing for covering at least part of said first housing; and

at least one projection portion formed to protrude from said main body toward said second housing,

wherein,

said projection portion has a contact surface in which comes into contact with an inner surface of said second housing,

said contact surface being formed to extend along said inner surface, and

said projection being so configured that it can deform within a space under said second housing to absorb shock.

2. (Original) The cushioning material according to claim 1, wherein said projection portion is provided on each of an upper surface, a lower surface, and side surfaces of said main body.

3. (Currently Amended) A cushioning material for supporting an inner first housing and an outer second housing in spaced apart relation, comprising:

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a main body having a space within which at least a portion of only one of a plurality of ~~corner~~ corners of said first housing can be received and having a portion which comes into contact with an outer surface of said first housing to cover at least part of said first housing;

a contact surface formed on an outer surface of said cushioning material to come in contact with an inner surface of said second housing;

and an opening formed in at least part of said contact surface to promote deformation upon being subjected to shock between said first and second housing thereby to promote shock absorption.

4. (Previously presented) The cushioning material according to claim 3, wherein said opening is formed so as to penetrate to said space.

5. (Currently Amended) An information storage device removably mounted on a device body, comprising:

a hard disk driving mechanism;

a first housing for accommodating said hard disk driving mechanism therein;

a second housing for accommodating said first housing therein; and

a connector portion,

wherein,

said first housing is supported by a cushioning material to have a distance between said first housing and said second housing,

said cushioning material has a main body having a space within which at least a portion of only one of a plurality of ~~corner~~ corners of said first housing is received and having a

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portion which comes into contact with an outer surface of said first housing to cover at least part of said first housing,

said cushioning material has at least one projection portion formed to protrude from said main body toward said second housing, and

said projection portion has a contact surface in which comes into contact with an inner surface of said second housing and which is formed to extend along said inner surface,

whereby,

said projection is effective to undergo suitable deformation with a space defined by said inner surface so as to absorb shock experienced by said first and second .

6. (Previously presented) The information storage device according to claim 5, wherein a projection portion is provided on each of an upper surface, a lower surface, and side surfaces of said main body of said cushioning material.

7. (Currently Amended) An information storage device removably mounted on a device body, comprising:

a hard disk driving mechanism;

a first housing for accommodating said hard disk driving mechanism therein;

a second housing for accommodating said first housing therein; and

a connector portion,

wherein,

said first housing is supported by a cushioning material to have a distance between said first housing and said second housing,

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said cushioning material has a main body having a space within which is received at least a portion of only one of a plurality of ~~corner~~ corners of said first housing and a portion which comes into contact with an outer surface of said first housing to cover at least part of said first housing, and

said cushioning material has a contact surface formed on an outer surface of said cushioning material to come in contact with an inner surface of said second housing, and

said cushioning material has an opening formed in at least part of said contact surface to promote deformation, said opening operatively configured to deform to absorb shock experienced by said first and second housings.

8. (Previously presented) The information storage device according to claim 7, wherein said opening is formed to penetrate to said space.

9. (Currently Amended) A cushioning device for maintaining first and second housings in spaced apart relation, said device comprising:

a main body with a space therein so configured to accommodate therein at least a portion of only one of a plurality of ~~corner~~ corners of said first housing, said main body having an outer surface which comes into contact with an inner surface of said second housing; and

a shock absorbing configuration in said main body effective to deform to absorb mechanical shock experienced by said first and second housings while maintaining said spaced apart relation.

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10. (Previously presented) The cushioning device of claim 9, wherein said shock absorbing configuration comprises at least one projection on said outer surface of said main body.

11. (Previously presented) The cushioning device of claim 9, wherein said main body comprises three orthogonal outer surfaces forming a corner, and said shock absorbing configuration comprises projections extending from each of said orthogonal outer surfaces.

12. (Previously presented) The cushioning device of claim 9, wherein said shock absorbing configuration comprises an opening in said outer surface of said main body which is effective to deform to absorb shock when said first and second housings are subjected to mechanical shock.

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